OUR ONLY LIBRARY.

Views of Various Classes on the Benefits it Bestows.

ONLY ONE PATRON POINTED OUT.

The Heavy Mental Food Devoured by Many Pittsburg Girls.

THE INSTITUTION SHOULD BE SAVED

IWRITTEN FOR THE DISPATOR ! The Restless Interrogator strolled up the stairway leading to the rooms of the Pittsburg Library Association, on Penn avenue, and entered the portals sacred to imperishable Pallas. He found himself in a long, lofty room, galleried round and lighted well, but bearing that sober, studious look which always sarrounds the abiding place

Out of the patch of sunlight, about one of the southern windows, stepped the comely librarian, Miss M. F. Macrum, and, as is her wont, greated the chance comer with graceful courtesy. No old-time chatelaine ald have done the honors of her feudal halls with more politeness than Miss Maerum displayed in showing her visitor through the library.

Quite a number of people were present; some reading at the different tables, some bending over sad-colored tomes in favorite allowes, some searching the catalogue for wished-for works. All was silent in the hall except for the opensional entrance or exit of a reader, or the passings to and tro of the librarian, and her assistants. Miss Macrum, learning that the object of the Restless Interrogator was information about the library, expressed herself willing to add his stock of knowledge all she knew on

FACTS ABOUT THE LIBRARY.

With regard to the present list of subseribers, Miss Macrum mentioned that it numbered in all 900. Most of these used the library for reading or took books out; a few were satisfied with sending in their subscriptions for the public good. "One prominent merchant, Mr. Joseph Horne," went on the librarian, "is a real benefactor. He bands over every rear to the Library Association the sum of \$50 in order that the clerks in his big store may have the privilege of using the library during their spare hours. A great number of Mr. Horne's cierks avail themselves of the privilege. If only the other great store-owners would follow Mr. Horne's noble ex-

novels. They were piquantly dressed, and one of them had a dainty little foot, a good deal in evidence, so the interrogator at once guessed "Ben Hur," and one of Rhoda ughton's or Mrs. Alexander's books,

AN EDUCATING PACTOR. "Wrong!" cried the librarian triumph-antly. "One is reading Sartor Besartus," and the other is deep in the 'Ethics of Spin-

The restless one was dumbfounded. He had humbly unrayeled the incoherencies of Tom Carlvie; but as for Spinoss-well no matter! Suffice it that he didn't know very

much about Spinosa.
"You see from this what an educating factor we have become," went on Miss Macrum. Over in the Carnegie alcove the laborer and the artisan will find technical education. We have works on architecture which might be of infinite use to the Pitt burg architects, if they would condescend to consult them. Our collection of refer-ence books is a complete one. If you want

to see what we are doing examine the books which came in from readers this morning." The books were: Carlyle's "French Revo-lution," Bellamy's "Looking Backward," portion of Gibbon's "Rome," a work on Chemical Pharmacy, portion of Kant's "Philosophy," Shelley's and Wordsworth's Poems, Thackeray's "Virginians" and "Pendennia," Miss Edgeworth's "Castle Back-rent," a Shakespeare, Cruden's "Concord-ance," a packet of books on Theosophy, translations of selected passages from Goethe, Plato and Schiller, Coleridge's "Essaya," Seiden's "Table Talk," together with quite a host of books on metal working and other technical subjects. Certainly, the range covered was a large one, and spoke really well for Pittaburg's poorer classes (the word poorer is used advisably, as the rich folk usually bring back their books much later in the afternoon, and these were the mora-

ing books).

After some more chat with Miss Macrum the interrogator left the library, satisfied of the real good it is doing, and boping that it may be crippled by lack of resources for as short a time as possible.

Subsequently the restless one paid visits

to one or two leading Pittsburgers, and col-lected their views on the library question. What a pity all the prominent citizens do not live within easy reach of the interviewer! It is positively criminal of them to fix their domiciles in the distant climes f East Liberty, Oakland and Allegheny They ought to reside within sight of the

PERLING THE POPULAR PULSE.

However, enough representative men were sen to enable the interviewer to skim the seen to enable the interviewer to skim the current of public thought with sufficient accuracy. The opinions of a divine, a lawver and politician, a prominent official, a labor leader, and a regular homespun laboring man were gathered. This is what they said: First, in order of visits, Postmaster Larkin spoke. "I look on the library as an excellent institution," he said. "It is doing heaps of good. It's position is, of course, anything but central, but that is the outcome of circumstances and not the fault of the directors. If the public come together and subscribe for finer rooms and a more and subscribe for finer rooms and a more central situation, well and good. But it would be sinful to sell or abandon Pitts-hurg's only public library. I think it is a library for all classes. The fee of \$4 per annum is small enough for the laboring man. anum is small enough for the laboring man. He would have to pay (indirectly and in taxes, of course), just as much to the upholding of the talked-of Carnegie Free Library. The library is short of finances, perhaps, but a little public spirit could remedy that. It is nonsense to button up one's pockets and then abuse the institution fer being poor. Another thing I would point out: The library is not sufficiently known. Could it be advertised more, brought measure home to the laboring classes, its list of readers might go up with creat rapidity. I suppose it is principally the poerer folias that the library is inded. Its want would become very aparent were it allowed to die. You know

the truism, that the mind without books is like an unweeded garden. The soil is much the same everywhere; it is the cultivation which is the criterion.

"The collection of books, in the Penn arenue rooms, is an excellent one. There is no flashy literature there; all is sound, though much is interesting. The officials there are always polite, and sometimes go out of their way to be civil to a visitor or reader. As long as I can, I will say a good word for the library."

Father Sheedy was next visited. He, too, was in favor of the library, "as far as it went." "Of course," he continued, "I don't think that many of the laboring class go to the rooms. It would be a very good thing if they did; but we must be practical, and admit that they don't. I'm afraid that it is much the same with the majority of young clerks and men about town. Of course advertising the institution might do good, but I fear the laborers think the place too tony for them. At any rate they would be acted their darks, in the way of knowledges are all understand the question, how make the same of their darks in the way of knowledges dramatists proceed from the first. good, but I fear the laborers think the place too tony for them. At any rate they would be out of their depths, in the way of knowledge, there. But for other classes, and for the few laborers and clerks who go there the place is worth, and well worth keeping. If it were only to enable us to say that we have a public library, it ought to be supported." A BOOK DEPOT SCHEME.

Mr. W. J. Brennen' agreed with Father Sheedy and Fostmaster Larkin in saying that the library should be maintained at all cost, but considered that the fee of \$4 too much to ask the ordinary workingman to pay. "I have got an idea of my own on the subject of city libraries for workingmen," said Mr. Brennen. "I believe that a small but select depot of works, with a reading room attached, should be placed in every ward. These little book depots would do far more good than the biggest of big central free libraries. The workingman doesn't care to walk in from Lawrenceville or Birmingham to read in a central library. Give him a room and books in his own ward and be'll go there fast enough. If he gets beyond the stock of standard works in the ward reading room he may think it worth his while to come to a central library, and for that reason, if for no other. works in the ward reading room he may think it worth his while to come to a central library, and for that reason, if for no other, I think the Penn avenue establishment is worth keeping. Another drawback to the present system, in the laborer's eyes, is the fact that there is no room for discussion in the reading room. In the long established and successful Southside workingman's library, talk and free debate was allowed. The result was that what one man got from the books, he imparted to his friends, and they discussed the author's opinions, and read the book themselves. Thus great thoughts and truths were brought home to every man, no matter how unlettered, or how unsophisticated. Those are the faults I find with central libraries in general. But for the reasons I have mentioned and for the sake of the bright minds which the library may inspire, among those who read its books, I unhesitatingly say that Pittsburg should hold by the library."

Mr. William Martin, Secretary of the A. A. of I. S. W., knew very little about the library question beyond what he had read in the newspapers. He had nothing to do with the laborer's literary leanings. "If have no doubt," said he, "that the library does much good, but I don't think many workingmen go there. In fact, I have yet to meet a laborer who avows himself a sub-

stock in libraries. I got enough learning to do me my life in a little school house up the river. But my sons are fond of books, and river. But my sons are fond of books, and one of them is going to be a telegraph operator. I know he is a member of the Penn Avenue Library, and I know he likes it very well. And that's all I know or want to know about it."

to know about it."

With the above opinions the interrogator was satisfied to rest. When law, labor, politics, divinity and the civil service give their ideas on the subject, a pretty good no-tion of what the public thinks of the Penn Avenue Library and its work can be formed.

Dangerous Negligence. It is as unwise to neglect a case of constipa-tion or indigestion as a case of fever or other more serious disease, for, if allowed to progress as great danger to life may result. A few Hamburg Figs will put the bowels in a healthy condition, in which they may be kept by occas-lonal use of this medicine. Scents. Dose, one Fig. Mack Drug Co., N. Y.

tiful Everett Pinnes This Week to Club Certificate No. 108 on Payments of \$1 Per Week.

Do you want a fine pisno? If you do buy the Everett, because it has absolutely no suthe Everett, because it has absolutely no su-perior and very few equals.

Because, our system of buying in con-tracts of 350 pianos at one purchase places the price beyond competition, and will save you at least \$75. Because, we offer induce-ments in easy payments without charging interest or excessive prices. Because, we will deliver your pianos at once for cash or on the same installment payments asked by other desiers, or you can come into our club-on payments of \$1 per week and per your on payments of \$1 per week and get your piano in a short time as low as it can be sold for cash. Do not delay; come and see the pianos or send for circular at once to Alex Ross, 187 Federal st., Allegheny.

Wedding Presents Pifty Years Ago.

Time changes even the love tokens with which brides are blessed. Among Queen Victoria's presents was a barrel of malt whisky; to-day she is a hale old lady.

The royal tamily and club men of every nation drink this same whisky. It is the product of one distillery, and is sold only in Pittshurg by a nephew of the dence. John n Pittsburg by a nephew of the donor, John

in Pittsburg by a nepnew of the donor, commediate.

No charge for packing. Send registered letter or money order for the (medical wonder) Prince Regent whisky. Address Half Century Liquor House, 523 Liberty street, Pittsburg, Pa.

Mention this paper.

FOR a finely out, nest-fitting ant leave your order with Walter Anderson, 700 Smithfield street, whose stock of English suitings and Scotch tweeds is the finest in the market; imported exclusively for his

B. & B. Furs, Clonks and Wraps, Unequaled Bargaina. Monday and all this week. Boogs & Buhl, Allegheny.

Pittsburg and Lake Eric Railroad. On December 31 and January 1, tickets will be sold at excursion rates good to return until January 3 inclusive, to all local points and to principal points on the N. Y., P. & O., and L. S. & M. S. Railroads.

HIGHEST prices paid for ladies' or gents' cast-off clothing at De Haan's Big 6, Wylie ave. Call or send by mail. wat

THOSE who use Frauenheim & Vilsack's ceisbrated ale and porter pronounce it excellent in flavor and very beneficial in its effect. Kept by all first-class dealers.

WHY SOME PLAYS SCORE A SUCCESS

I have been saked to explain to the general playgoing public how plays are made—
that is, as I understand the quention, how modern dramatists proceed from the first moment of conceiving a dramatic "idea" to the grand moment when the idea becomes a triumphant certainty, or (as the case may be) a dismal failure. If I could inform the reader, or if I knew myself, by what process to make a successful play, I should be inclined rather to "patent" the discovery than to publish it to the world; butaince all I can say must be purely technical and anecotos operandi of a dramatic workman, I, may fearlessly utter what little I know. The chemistry which some people call "genius" and others "trick" or "cunning" must always be mysterious—unless we choose to adopt the self-deception of the suthor of the Raven, or the authors of innumerable prefaces to works with motive, and, crying backwards, invent theories of composition to explain the natural miracles of so-called inspiration.

Unfortunately, many modern plays are made simply in the carpenter's shop and built up on long-familiar models; nor do I presume to say that my own works are so brilliant as to be invariably outside this category. An ordinary Adelphi drama of the old school, for example, may be constructed by any expert workman without much difficulty: A lover and his lass, a villain who interferes with their, happinens, an old gentleman who is murdered, a false suspleion cast by the villain on the honest lover, conventional character, raried with the extravagancies of a soubrette and a low comedian, grouped in two, or tarse showy tableaux, and finally in a tableau of general little of the state of the surface and on the read of

travagancies of a soubrette and a low comedian, grouped in two or three showy tableaux, and finally in a tableau of general happiness and reconciliation, are about all the materials necessary to please the "gods." But even such a play as this, to be successful, must be done by an expert, a master of his trade. It is no more to be done by any novice than boat building, or house build-

either the noblest achievement of genius or the highest achievement of practical in-genuity; effect piled upon effect, situation crowning situation, in a way to turn even an Adelphi dramatist green with envy. Those other plays which ex-hibit Shakespeare as merely a divine poet, plays such as "As You Like It" and "Much Ado" have many achieved the second of the se Ado," have never achieved any abiding popularity; and it may be said, in a general way, that the greatest of dramatists is most triumphant precisely where he is most con-ventional and melo-dramatic. It is not its philosophy that makes "Hamlet" perennially attractive, and indeed a distinguished German critic has contended that there is "very little philosophy about it;" it is its masterly sequence, its cumulative and often commonplace interest of surprise and

situation. To return, however, to our modern dran atist. His first thought, putting aside his personal instinct and sympathy, must be of his audience. It is, I coutend, sheer cant to contend that an author is to waste no thought on the public for whom he is writing; all authors who produce masterpieces invariably do, and Carlyle, for example, who protested much against "writing down," took enormous pains to manufacture a vocabulary which would attract

vulgar attention. MUST SUIT THE AUDIENCE

If I were selecting a piece for an audience of philosophers, I should prefer "The Clouds" of Aristophanes even to "Hamlet." If I were catering for an audience of poets I would tearlessly put up Shelley's "Promewould tearlessly put up Shelley's "Prometheus." But if, on the other hand, I wanted to please a general audience, I should prefer "Arrah na Pogue" (a masterpiece in its way) to the "Antigone." Reduced to practical common sense, pleasing a general audience means telling a good story, introducing bright characters, epitomizing the dialogue, and generally "getting along." Here again comes in all the technique of the craft—having selected your materials, how to utilize and work them. No dramatist, however great, can escape the necessity for this technique.

Next, the dramatist has to think of the performers available, and this is an endless difficulty. Good plays innumerable have been ruined by being badly "cast;" many baddish plays have succeeded through first-law interpretation.

baddish plays have succeeded through firstclass interpretation.

Thirdly, as to the temper of the timea.
Certain themes, a dramatist soon learns, will
not be tolerated; certain subjects, notably
those affecting the social relation of the sexes,
are tabooed. Several superstitions survive,
though some, such as the "happy ending"
superstition, are dying out. Generally
speaking, however, sudiences decline to
listen to sermons, and like to leave the theater in a happy frame of mind—which is
secured usually by the punishment of vice
and the triumph of virtue. This teeling, of
course, if rigidly insisted upon, would preclude all tragedy; but in all the best tragedy,
there is a negatively happy ending, as in the
supreme niteousness of Lear, and the divine
self-sacrifice of Antigene. Despite the darkness of great suffering, we see the clouds
parting to show the infinite scure behind
them.

I need scarcely discuss the possibility of finding a sympathetic manager, or the dangers of mutitation to pieces in blank verse. As a rule managers won't have verse at any price, and actors cannot speak it under any instruction. Yet poetical plays, when well produced and well acted, are frequently success al.

To cease generalizing and come to particulars. It is very seldom nowadays that dramss are written, as Mrs. Bardell's case was taken up, "on spec." A manager generally comes to a dramatist of more or less reputation, and asks for a play to be ready by a certain date—unless the dramatist happens to have something in his "desk" which just suits the manager stid his company. Is London, nowadays, sofor-managers are the rule, not the exception; so the first question is, "can you fit me with a good part, one in which I can score?" "Joseph's Sweetheart" was decided on in this way, because

the dramatist saw in Parson Adams a won-derful character for Mr. Thorne. Next comes the question of the theater and the company. What will suit the Vaudeville will not suit the Adelphi, and what might do very well for the Lyceum is impossible on a smaller stage. If for a small theater, the fewer scenes the better; if for a fashionable one, some fine modern "interiors" are indis-pensable.

STAGING A PLAY.

A subject selected, a play written "and accepted, the play is not yet completely "made." It has to pass through the crueible of stage management, which begins with the selection of the actors to perform in it. In England, as a rule, this is left a great

SECRETS OF SUCCESS. Very frequently, indeed I may say very generally, it is not the play as a whole that attracts, but something in it—some situation, some novel character, some remarkable piece of acting—that catches the public fancy. The difficulty always is, to get andiences; audiences, when secured, are easily entertained. Wild horses will not draw the public to see certain plays, which, if once seen, would be heartily enjoyed. One great factor, perhaps, is a taking title; another, a popular and attractive company.

I fear, after all, that I have not succeeded in explaining the mystery, how plays are

and the continue of the second part of the second p receive a little more courtesy from some of those who pronounce judgment upon his

A FEW fine marble and onyx clocks and tables left over from the holiday rush. We take stock January 10. Until that time we will allow a discount of 25 per cent on all clocks, bronzes, onyx tables, silverware, lamps, etc. Take advantage of this offer. The mode are all first closes and powert de-The goods are all first-class and newest designs. M. G. Cohen, Diamond Expert and Jeweler, 533 Smithfield st. Large pillar ck in front of the door.

A MARVELOUS DISCOVERY.

Dr. Wilford Hall's Health Pamphlet, Recently Issued, Unfolds a Common-Sense Hygienic Treatment, by Which Disease in Almost Any Form is Conquered Without Medicines or Drugs of Auy Kind.

out Medicines or Drugs of Any Kind.

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true healer) to do her work unimpeded, and without the aid of medicines.

"When once secured it lasts a life-time, saving many doctor bills; not only curing disease but inducing health and longevity by fortifying the system against the possibility of contracting sickness.

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tates. For further particulars and indorsemen send a 2c stamp to Hygienic Treatment Co., Box 325, Pittsburg, Pa. (Authorized agent for Dr. Hall.)

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THOSE who use Francohelm & Vilsack's celebrated ale and porter pronounce it excellent in flavor and very Desichical in its effect. Kept by all first-class/dealers. McGinty Molasses Cakes. Just the thing to please the little ones. New, sweet and delicious. Your grocer keeps them.

Users of Lutz's beer are always well pleased. Kept by all first-class dealers, or will be supplied direct. Office cor. Chestnut at and Spring Garden ave., Allegheny. Z. WAINWRIGHT & Co. casily rank all thers as producing superior beer, ale and sorter. Families supplied direct. Tele-

Moutenac, chinchilla and kersey over-conts, ready-made and to order, at Piteairn's, 436 Wood street.

CASH paid for old gold and allver a

American Manufacturers of Stained Glass Head the World.

COMING INTO POPULAR FAVOR

As a Decorative Material for Public Buildings and Residences.

A PEW FACTS ABOUT GLASS IN GENERAL

A PEW FACTS ABOUT GLASS IN GENERAL

In the early days of glass manufacture, the making of large sheets of glass was practically an impossibility, and anything larger than a few inches in each of its dimensions was so very expensive as to confine its use to the few weafthy persons who could afford such a luxury. With the introduction of improved methods in the glass industry, and the consequent cheapening of the larger and finer sheets, the smaller pieces were quickly relegated to the least pretentions of buildings, such as factories and cheap tenements, but of late years there is evidently a marked inclination to revert to the use of small panes of glass as a means of producing a decorative effect. So also the old-time knuckled glass that was once so much used because of the difficulty experienced in making glass that was once so much used because of the difficulty experience of many purposes of decorative are. But it is in the precent extensive use of colored or stained glass that was once so much used because of the difficulty experience of summer will be the most readily observed.

For a considerable time no material found greater favor with architects, and decorative at the in the structure of the control of fall into disuse, except for work in churches and other public buildings.

COSTLY ARD UNSATISFACTORY.

As regardis the United States, the neglect of a valuable a decentive material was been allowed to fall into disuse, except for work in churches and other public buildings.

COSTLY ARD UNSATISFACTORY.

As regardis the United States, the neglect of a valuable a decentive material was been added to the lease the added more to the sum of which they are destined to teach the such case of the further and the part of the such case of the further and the part of the such case of the class of the further and the part of the construction of the such case of the difficulty experience and the part of the part of the

As regards the United States, the neglect of so valuable a decentive material was largely due to the fact that until quite re-cently but little of it was manufactured here, and that which was brought from abroad was very costly, and at the same time in some remeets ussatisfactory. There time in some respects unsatisfactory. There was also the difficulty, a serious one at all

was also the difficulty, a serious one at all times, but which in the construction of any description of art work becomes appreciably greater, of having to depend upon such a far-off source of supply for material. But now all this is changed, and instead of looking elsewhere for a supply of stained glass for our own use, we are prepared to manufacture large quantities of it for export, and this, too, of a very superior quality. No better example could be cited of the success with which American energy and enterprise can compete with all the balance of the world, than is presented by the rise and progress of this particular industry. It is practically but a few years old in this country, yet we are able to compete with the

not alone in New York, however, that her work is known and appreciated; there are examples of her designing to be seen in va-rious other places, among them a memorial

window which she not long ago executed for St. Mark's Church in Orange. A WOMAN'S PATRIOTISM. It was while at work upon the window which she designed for Grace Church, New York, that Miss Tillinghast made her bold stand in asserting the superiority of American glass over the foreign product which had until quite recently been used almost exclusively for the finer and more important works. The committee in charge of this work accepted her design after some hesitation, caused solely by the fact that its author was a woman, but had determined upon using only English glass, to which, however, Miss Tillinghast very strenuously objected, as, in her opinion, the American product was fully equal to say that came from abroad. Being any that came from abroad. Being possessed of considerable determination, she maintained her position so stoutly that she was eventually permitted to execute the work according to her own ideas, and she was the satisfaction of having done now has the satisfaction of having done more, perhaps, than any other individual to firmly establish an important American in-

firmly establish an important American industry.

A complete history of glass manufacture would fill a very large-sized volume, as it has been carried on for many hundreds of years, and by various races of people. It is believed to have existed as early as 4'000 years ago, and it is positively known to have been an important product of only a few centuries later. Just who were the original inventors of glass is not positively known, and the credit of its origin has been disputed by people of many different nationalities as being fairly due to their respective countries. Most persons are familiar with the legion of the Phenician merchants who landed on the coast of Palestine, and who chanced to melt sand and soda together with the fire they used for cooking their meals, and so discovered the art of their meals, and so discovered the art of ranking glass, but, although this account of the origin of glass rests upon the authority of Pliny and Flavius Josephus, it is probably nothing more than an interesting story, and, in any case, the manufacture of glass in Egypt is known to be more ancient than this pretty fable of the Phonicians. It is highly probable that glass is.

AN EGYPTIAN INVENTION; at all events, the oldest known specimens come from that country, and the weight of evidence seems to bear out the assumption that it had its origin there.

In the earliest period of its menufacture, the product of the glass works was essentially different from the periodity transparent crystal with which we are familiar at the present day. It was always colored. Kanens Never Does Asything by Halves.

parent crystal with which we are familiar at the present day. It was always colored, for the good and sufficient reason that they were unable to make it clear, and for the same reason it was generally dull and opaque in place of transparent. It is strange, too, considering the great utility of glass products in modern times, that in the beginning the manufacture of glass was carried on for purposes ornamental rather than neelul, confined as it was to the production of small vases, beads and other such triflea. The early glass workers readily learned to make imitations of other and more rare and costly materials in glass, but they had no more notion of making a sheet of crystal such as is now used for the better class of windows than they had of inventing the phonograph or taking a fourney to some distant planet. It was not until about the third century of the Christian era that glass was put to what has ever since been its most important use, vis, for windows of dwellings and other buildings. For seconsiderable was put to wast has ever since been its most important use, vis, for windowsol dwellings and other buildings. For a considerable time the principal glass macufactures spear to have been various kinds of vases, and a surprising degree of skill was developed in that production. A kind of work which was introduced quite early, and which still meets with great favor, co of two layers of glass with decoration rold between them; a very subarfeature of it is indestructible, save by the total demolition of the vessel. Most persons are familiar with the description of the famous Portland vase, now in the British Museum, which held the makes of the Emperor Alexander Severus. It was made with an inner layer of blue and an outer one of white glass, and had figures carved upon it in relief, thus producing a brilliant effect with its double coloring.

A MAN WHO HAD BEEN TO FRANCE

telescope—was known and used during the earliest period in the history of glass manufacture. All the wonderful discoveries which have since been made in astronomical science had the way prepared for them, when, centuries ago, one of the subjects of Ptolemy IL turned the first telescope toward the stars. No other instruments can be named that have directly added more to the sum of human knowledge than the telescope and the microscope, and we have as yet scarcely entered the primary grade of the lessons which they are destined to teach Gerald E. Flanagan.

RUSSIA'S NEW PORT.

Alrendy a Largo Tewn, With Promises of a Great Future.

The British Consul General at Odessa, in a report which has just been published and which is summarized in the London Times,

which is summarized in the London Times, describes Novorossiak, a port on the coast of

exports are naphtha, refuse and cement. Most of the land in the neighborhood below the vegetable mold is formed of cement of remarkable purity, and only requires heating in furnaces and grinding to become the ordinary cement of commerce. There is an annual output of 14,300 tons, nearly the whole of which is taken up by the Government at 70s per table.

whole of which is taken up by the Government at 70s per ton.

The Consul General thinks Novorossiak has a great future. When the Azoy is frozen in winter the grain arrested at Bostoff will find its way to it. Moreover, in time the rich plains of the Northern Caucasius, which are now sparsely peopled on account of the wholesale emigration of the Caucasian inhabitants, will gradually be brought under the plow, and for these regions it is the natural outlet.

One Spot Where There is Scow. Portland Oregonian.] Men from the mining districts of Baker county report an abundance of snow, and all locomotion from one point to another is by spowshoes. This is welcome news, for it assures a prosperous mining season for 1890 and thousands of dollars that have for ages been locked up in the treasure vaults of Mother Earth will find their way into the hands of people, to be distributed into the

Reciprocity With Mexico. It is to be hoped that the the administra-tion at Washington will not overlook the fact that a large amount of English capital is being sent to Mexico for investment in commercial and industrial enterprises. If we expect to compete with European rivals in that field we must have the advantage of a reciprocity treaty, and the work of secur-ing it cannot be started a day too soon.

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.] Missouri is said to be assured of two consulships immediately after the holidaysthat for the City of Mexico, which goes to L. C. Bridges, of Sedalia, and that for Melbourne, which goes to W. H. Wallace, of Lexington. Thus a gleam of hope sitts through the gloom of disappointment.

Not the Reform Desired. From the Wheeling Intelligencer.;

Zolo, the French novelist, is seeking new advertisement with the story that he has stopped drinking. If he really desires applause, he should announce that he has stopped writing.



Ful- Bostonian (instructing her Kansa Always sip soup from the side of

And Who Proposed to Let the Audience Knew That Fact.

WITTT HITS OF A CLEVER HUMORIST

(CORRESPONDENUE OF THE DISPATCE.) LONDON, December 21 .- A few days be-LONDON, December 21.—A few days before lecturing in any town, under the
auspices of a literary society or mechanics'
institute, the lecturer generally receives
from the secretary a letter running somewhat as follows: "Dear Sir, I have much
pleasure in informing you that our Mr.
Blank, a well known resident here, will
take the chair at your lecture." Translated
into plain English this reads: "My poor
fellow, I am much grieved to inform you
that a chairman will be inflicted upon you
on such and such a day."

In my few years' lecturing experience I have come across all serts and conditions of chairmen, and can recollect very few that "have helped me." Now what is the office, the duty, of a chairman on such occasions? He is supposed to introduce the lecturer to the audience. For this he needs to be able to make a next aptech. Sometimes he is nervous; he hems and haws, cannot find the words he wants, and only succeeds in fidgeting the audience. You don't like it. Sometimes, on the other hand, he is a wit. There

on such and such a day."

DROLL SCOTCH CHAIRMEN. Of those chairmen who can and do speak,

and declare they cannot speak, but do. Others think they can speak, which is apt

Others think they can speak, which is apt to be a worse case still.

As a rule the most objectionable chairmen are local men holding civis honors. Accustomed to deliver themselves of a speech whenever and wherever they get a chance, aldermen, town councilors, members of local boards, never miss an opportunity of getting upon a platform to address a good crowd. Not long ago, I was introduced to an audience in a large English town by a candidate for civic honors. The election to the Town Council was to take town by a candidate for civic honors. The election to the Town Council was to take place a fortnight atterward, and this gentleman profited by the occasion to air all his grievances against the sitting Council, and to assure the citizens that if they would only elect him, there were bright days in store for them and their city. This was the gist of the matter; the speech lasted a quarter of an hour.

an hour.

HE HAD BEEN TO FRANCE. More than once, when announced to de-liver a lecture on France, I have been intro-duced by a chairman who, having spent his holidays in that country once or twice, opened the evening's proceedings by him-self delivering a lecture on France. I have felt very tempted to say to the audience in such cases: "Ladies and gentlemen, as one lecture on France is enough for an evening, perhaps you would rather I spoke about something else."

Sometimes I get a little amusement, how-ever (as in the country town of X.), out of

ever (as in the country town of X.), out of the usual proceedings of the society before whose members I am engaged to appear. At X. the audience being assembled and the time up, I was told to go on the platthe time up, I was told to go on the platform alone and, being there to immediately
sit down. I went on, and ant down. Some
one in the room then rose and proposed that
Mr. M— should take the chair. Mr. M—,
it appeared had been to Roulogne and was
particularly fitted to introduce a Frenchman. In a speech of five minutes duration
all Mr. M—'s qualifications for the post of
chairman were duly set forth. Then some
one else rose and seconded the proposition,
re-enumerating most of these qualifications.
Mr. M— then marched up the hall, ascended
the platform and proceeded to return thanks
for the kind manner in which he had been
proposed for the chair and for the enthusiasm
with which the audience had sanctioned the
choice. He said it was true that he had
been in France and he greatly admired the
country and the people, etc. These

ountry and the people, etc. These reliminaries over I gave my lecture, after thich Mr. M— called upon a member of the udience to propose a vote of thanks to me for the most interesting discourse," etc.

Now a paid lecturer wants has cheque Now a paid lesturer wants has cheque when his work is over, and slithough a vote of thanks, when it is spontaneous, is a compliment which he appreciates, he is more likely to feel awkwardness than pleasure at it when it is a mere red tape formality. The vote of thanks on this particular occasion was proposed in due form. Then it was seconded by someone who repeated two or three of my lokes. By this time, I began to enter into the run of the thing, and after having returned thanks for the vote of thanks and sat down, I stepped forward again, filled with a mild resolve to have the last word. "Ladjes and gentlemen," I said, "I have now much pleasure in proposing that a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. M—for the able manner in which he has filled the chair." I went again through the list of Mr. M—'s qualifications, not orgetting the trip to Boulogue and the impressions it had left on him. Somsbody rose and acconded this. Mr. M—delivered a speech to thank the audience once more, and then those who had survived more, and then those who had survived went home.

A THYING OCCASION.

Some Nonconformist sociaties will engage a light or humorous lecturer, put him in their chapel, and open proceedings with prayer. Prayer is good, but I would as soon think of saying grace over a glass of toddy as of beginning my lestures with a prayer. This kind of experience has been mine only twice. A truly trying thing it was, on the

first occasion, to be accompanied to the plat-form by the minister, who, motioning me to sit down, advanced to the frank, lowered his head, and said in selemn access; "Let us pray." After I got started, it took me fully ten minutes to make the people realize that they were not at charely

pray." After I got started, it took me fully ten minutes to make the people realize that they were not at church.

My other experience in this line was still worse, for the prayer was supplemented by the singing of a hyun of ten or twelve verses. You may easily imagine that my first joke fell dead flat.

I have been introduced to an audience as Mounabeer O'Reel, and lound it very difficult to bear with equanicity a chairman who maltreated my name. But he is charming when compared to the one who in the midst of his introductory process turns to you, and in a stage whisper perfectly andible all over the hall, halas: "How do you pronounce your name?"

Passing over chairmen chaity and chairmen the reverse, I feel decidedly most kindly toward the silent chairman. He is very rare, but when met with is exceedingly precious. Why he exists, in certain institutes where he is to be met with, I know not. Whether he comes on to see that the lecturer does not rup off before his time is up, or with the water bottle, which is the only portable thing on the platform generally; whether he is a successor of some venerable deaf and dumb founder of his society, or whether he goes on with the lecturer to give a lesson of medesty to the public as who should say: "I could speak on if I would, but I forbear." Be his raison d'este what it may, we all love him. To the nervous novice he is doubtless a kind of quiet support, to the old stager he is as a picture unto the eye and as music anto the ear.

MAX O'BELLA

MAX O'BELL A BANKER'S RISE AND FALL.

The Remarkable Experience of Financies

Ditmus, of Philadelphia. Philadelphia Record.] The story of the financial rise and fall of Banker Joseph G. Ditman, coupled with his subsequent disappearance, makes a most interesting tale, and one that rivals many a romance. Mr. Ditman's father was a farmer living near Frankford, in comforta-

farmer living near Frankford, in comfortable circumstances, and a man of much force of character, and his memory is revered to this day by his many friends and acquaintances in that section.

When a boy, young Ditman entered the employ of William H. Fliteraft, a paper dealer at Fifth and Minor strets. In course of time he rose to the position of salesman, and at the age of 28 years embarked in the paper business for himself on the small capital of \$1,000, borrowed from a friend, who was afterward repaid fourfold. Soon after his advent into business Mr. Ditman married Cecilia, youngest daughter of the late Marcus L. Bulkley, at that time a coal operator and purchases or coal lands for the Reading Railroad under the management of the late Franklin B. Gowen.

Father-in-Law Bulkley joined Mr. Ditman in business in 1871, under the firm name of J. G. Ditman & Co. They began with a cash capital of \$30,000, and from that time, as Mr. Ditman's business associates used to say, "everything he touched turned into gold."

was indebted to Mr. Ditman in the sum of \$40,000 once appealed to Mrs. Ditman to plead his cause with her husband. The creditor's wife also waited upon Mrs. Ditman and added her entreaties to those of her husband. The appeal was successful, and Mr. Ditman agreed not to levy upon the man's property. His kindness was poorly repaid, as he recovered only \$5,000 of the debt, yet it is stated that the creditor is now worth \$60,000, and lives in a style hefitting the possession of that sum.

the possession of that sum.

All of the family believe that Mr. Ditman was drowned in the Schuylkill on the night of his disappearance.

HIS HUDSON RIVER BRIDGE. Description of Gustave Lindouthal's Great \$40,000.000 Project.

Chicago Journal of Commerce.] Doubtless the next generation will greatly surpass the present in wealth and resources, but it will have plenty of use for all its but it will have pleaty of use for all its money and all its irgenuity if half of the great enterprises now being prepared for it are carried into execution. Of one or more of these enterprises the Hadson river, above or below water, will be the scene. The hope is held out that a railroad will be laid in a tunnel under the river in time to bring visitors to the Weld's Fair in 1800, but under the river in time to bring visitors to the World's Fair in 1892; but even should that be done, more tunnels than one will be wanted, or else a bridge, or possibly, in course of time, both tunnels and bridges. Mr. Gustave Lindenthal, of Pittsburg, the well-known engineer, has planned a bridge from New Jersey to New York, which, it is computed, will cost \$40,000,000. The following description is given of this mammoth structure:

The drawings show one "pan, 2,850 feet in length, clearing the river, and two other spans, each over 2,500 feet, extending from piers on the shore to the anchorage on

from piers on the shore to the anchorage on either side. The structure is to be a snapension bridge, the towers 506 feet in height, almost double those of the Brooklyn bridge, which are 280 feet. From high water mark to the floor of the roadway is 120 feet, 20 feet more than that of the Brooklyn bridge.

The span between the towers is to be 2,850 cet, which is 1,255 longer than that of the Brooklyn bridge. The shore anchorages are to be 210 feet in height, 180 feet wide and 400 feet long, of solid masonry, except a tunnel through the upper end for the roadway.

cept a tunnel through the upper end for the roadway.

The roadway is to be 85 feet wide, and will accommodate six railroad tracks. It will be supported by four cables, two on each side, passing over the towers and fastened in the anchorage at either end. These cables are to be four feet in diameter, and will contain 15,000 steel wires each.

The two cables on each side are joined together with lattice traces of wrought from, each one of which will weigh eight togs. Running from the cables are six-inch cables at short intervals, which sustain the roadway. The main cables will weigh two tons to the foot.

The full length of the bridge is to be something over 7,000 cet. On the New

something over 7,000 cet. On the New Jersey side the anchorage is to be placed at the foot of Union Hill in Hoboken, and in order to reach the grade, which at this point is 135 feet above the street level, the approach will have to commune near the Hackensack river.

DIAMONDS have advanced since July last about 40 per ceut. This is but the beginning of a movement to increase the market price of precious stones. We predict a further advance of tross 50 to 75 per cent the coming year. Our stock of diamonds was ourchased in June just before the advance, and we are still settling goods at the old prices. We lake stock January 10, after which we will be compelled to advance our prices on diamonds to meet market prices. prices on diamonds to meet market We have a large and complete sto those contemplating the purchase of munda, we would say, now is your time. G. Cohen, Diamond Expert and Jawa 553 Smithfield at. Large street clock